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Cuban Invasion Secret Hurt Nixon, Klein Says

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Mar. 24 (AP).—Richard M. Nixon's former press secretary said today that Mr. Nixon's desire to keep the secret of Cuban invasion plans caused him to be "clubbed" by President Kennedy in the 1960 campaign.

Herbert G. Klein, press secretary for Mr. Nixon during the 1960 presidential campaign and now editor of the San Diego Union, said the former Vice President had wanted to make Cuban intervention a campaign issue but did not do so for security reasons.

When Mr. Kennedy came out for Cuban intervention, Mr.

Klein said, "the effect was that in a crucial period of the campaign Mr. Nixon was being clubbed with his own weapon. And, because he had a strong sense of his responsibility to protect security, he had no choice but to argue against Mr. Kennedy—and thus against a policy he previously originated himself."

Mr. Klein's version of the incident appeared in Sunday editions of the Union.

He called it "a story we of the Nixon staff couldn't tell during the 1960 campaign."

"It is the story of the Cuban issue," he said, "which the

former Vice President has discussed briefly in his new book, 'Six Crises,' and which was disputed this past week by the President."

"For the Vice President and his staff," Mr. Klein said, "the angriest moments of the campaign took place on October 20 on the eve of the fourth television debate (between Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kennedy). We were in New York when Mr. Kennedy, late in the day, made a proposal which directly outlined the exact program which was being carried out—and which we had, for security reasons, kept secret."

"Here is what we thought had happened:

"First: On July 23 Allen Dulles, then head of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Mr. Kennedy had concurred in announcing that he had

become its deputy as co-nator of the Western State campaign in 1960; and Kennedy was successively usher at John Kennedy's wedding, manager of his 1958 State race and director of Western phase of his campaign for the presidency.

Now all three are running for Congress, along with others of the President's wedding ushers, Senator Smathers of Florida and Representative Robert MacDonald of Michigan. In the 1960 campaign, the administration had followed with quick orders putting this into effect.

"It seemed obvious to us that Mr. Kennedy was striking back after realizing he was losing points at a crucial point of the campaign. He was striking back with secret material he had been given at the Dulles briefing. The White House was queried and we were told Mr.